

HAMPTON BUDGET COMMITTEE
MINUTES
January 5, 2010

Budget Committee Members Present

Mary-Louise Woolsey, Chairman
Michael Plouffe, Vice-Chairman
Jerry Znoj, Selectman Representative
Norm Silberdick, School Board Representative
Pat Collins
Victor DeMarco
Dick Hansen
Brian Lapham
Eileen Latimer
Jack Lessard
Michael Pierce
Larry Stuker
Peter Traynor

Excused

Richard Reniere

Chairman Woolsey called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Chairman Woolsey introduced the members of the Committee.

Approval of Minutes of December 15, 2009

Moved by Mr. Lapham, seconded by Mr. Plouffe, to approve the Minutes of December 15, 2009.

Vote: 11 yes, 0 no, 2 abstentions (DeMarco, Hansen). Motion passed.

Hampton School District Budget & Revenues

Chairman Woolsey said this was a work session for the Hampton School District budget for 2010-2011 and the Estimated Revenues.

Appearing for the School Board were Rusty Bridle, School Board Chairman, and Nancy Tuttle, Finance Assistant SAU 21.

Moved by Mr. Silberdick, seconded by Mr. Pierce, to approve the Estimated Revenues of \$680,738 for the Hampton School District for 2010-2011.

Chairman Woolsey pointed out that there was a decline in Estimated Revenues from last year of \$53,408.

Vote: 13 yes, 0 no. Motion passed unanimously.

Moved by Mr. Silberdick, seconded by Mr. Pierce, to move forward to the public hearing the amount of \$18,015,988 for the operating budget for the Hampton School District for 2010-2011.

Ms. Tuttle said she would answer the questions raised at the last meeting regarding disparity between numbers. She said that the Budget Summary shows expense accounts and proposals for the coming year. It does not include a lot of other items. She said the MS25 is a condensed version of the financial report which is sent to the State. Monthly expenses are reported through a software package and these are put on the website. All transfers of money are Board approved. Encumbrances carried into the next year are not in the budget books. The MS25 also includes all warrant article expenditures. The operating budget does not include these expenditures. There are also audit adjustments that are reflected in the MS25. Ms. Tuttle suggested that next year in September a review of the year that has just closed should be presented to the Budget Committee.

Chairman Woolsey asked if there was a timeframe on encumbrances. Ms. Tuttle replied that they try to clean them up within 90 days.

Mr. Pierce said last year there was a question as to whether health insurance was estimated or expended and then it was discovered that it was estimated. Ms. Tuttle said these numbers change monthly due to changes in employee status, etc.

Mr. DeMarco explained that if a certain percentage is estimated for health insurance and that percentage is not used, when insurance is estimated for the next year the actual number expended is used and the percentage is taken from that.

Mr. Stuker said he did not see the rationale of priorities. Every year there is a lot of money left and it is spent on projects. It seems to be unfocused on personnel.

Chairman Woolsey said both the Town and School are very careful not to overspend and will probably end up with surpluses that can be spent on what they need.

Mr. Collins said the District has always done an excellent job and been well-funded. He said his concern was for employees who do not have professional status. He said he would prefer to cut back on technology and not staff.

Brian Belanger, Technical Support, came forward. He said the plan is to replace only the computers and printers that are failing.

Mr. Lessard said Hampton has the best school system and is doing a wonderful job.

Mr. Znoj asked about the extra planning period for Hampton Academy teachers. David O'Connor, Principal of Hampton Academy, came forward. He said it is not an extra period. It is developmental. Teachers work in teams and it is important that these teams can meet. There is a personal planning time which is in the contract, but there is also a common planning time which is very structured.

Mr. Znoj asked about the Outreach Coordinator. Mr. O'Connor explained that this position works at all three schools with homeless and struggling families.

Mr. Pierce asked about low test scores. Catherine Bates, Curriculum Director, came forward. She said those scores were misleading. Nearly 80% of students scored at or above grade level. Lois Costa, Marsten Principal, came forward. She said she works with the Schools of Excellence. She said the Hampton schools are among the best schools in the State. Marsten has been a finalist for Schools of Excellence.

Sara Stetson, Special Education Director, came forward. Chairman Woolsey asked if special ed expenditures have been flattening out. Ms. Stetson said they have because there is less tuitioning out.

Mr. Znoj asked about pre-school. Ms. Stetson said that there is a law that special ed be provided for children age 1 through 21.

Mr. Znoj asked what the money for recycling is for. Keith Lessard said that Waste Management is paid to remove recycling materials from the schools.

Mr. Hansen left the meeting at 9:30 p.m.

Amendment moved by Mr. Traynor, seconded by Mr. Pierce, to reduce the operating budget figure for the Hampton School District by \$308,449 for a total of \$17,707,539.

Mr. Traynor explained that he recommended cuts in Technology, Replace Technology Equipment, Repair Maintenance Services, New Furniture, Health Insurance and Total Employee Benefits.

Mr. Bridle explained that the 19% increase in health insurance was given to them by the Health Insurance Trust and that only old equipment for Technology is being replaced.

Vote: 6 yes, 6 no (Collins, DeMarco, Lessard, Plouffe, Stuker, Znoj). Amendment failed.

Chairman Woolsey called for a vote on the main motion of sending forward to the Public Hearing the amount of \$18,015,988 for the operating budget for the Hampton School District for 2010-2011.

Vote: 7 yes, 5 no (Lapham, Latimer, Pierce, Traynor, Znoj). Motion passed.

Chairman Woolsey said the next meeting will be Thursday, January 14, 2010, at 7:00 p.m. in the Selectmen's Meeting Room at which time money articles for the School and Town will be addressed.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Committee, Mr. Lapham **moved**, seconded by Mr. Pierce, that the meeting be adjourned. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

The meeting adjourned at 10:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Rice
Secretary

Mary-Louise Woolsey, Chairman